

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-47 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 11-13, 18, 23, 36 and 42 are amended and new Claims 43-47 are added. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

The outstanding Office Action rejects Claims 1-12, 14, 18, 19, 22-25, 27-32 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,558,022 to Zytco, Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Zytco in view of GB 683,932 to Kellet, Claims 15-17, 20, 33-38 and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Zytco and Claims 21 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Zytco in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,741 to Dumler et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to amended independent Claim 1, Zytco does not disclose a packaging device including an applicator extending within the hollow portion and including an application surface that retains the fluid product for application and a flow reducer having a stripper portion for reducing the amount of fluid product from the application surface, as in amended independent Claim 1. Instead, Zytco discloses a bottle including a dropper dispenser which does not have the applicator extending within a hollow portion and including an application surface.

Furthermore, with respect to dependent Claims 3, 15-17, 20, 21, 26, 33-38, and 40-42, Applicants respectfully traverse the Office Action's assertion that Zytco may be combined with Kellet and Dumler. Specifically, Dumler and Kellet disclose a brush applicator. As stated in M.P.E.P. § 2141.02, a prior art reference must be considered in its entirety. Thus, Applicants assert that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Zytco with either Dumler or Kellet because the brush of Kellet and Dumler is not

compatible with the hinged jaw member of Zytco. The non-rigid brush of Kellet and Dumler would catch in the jaw member 126 stripping most of the fluid product from the brush or resulting in bristles from the brush being torn from the applicator. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

With respect to amended independent Claim 23, none of the applied references disclose a flow reducer including at least one rib located in a curved internal diameter increasing portion of an inner wall of the neck. Instead, Zytco discloses ribs 122 parallel to the longitudinal axis of a plug 120 and pressed against the inner wall of the neck. See Zytco at e.g. Figure 12. Neither Kellet nor Dumler provide the deficiencies of Zytco. Kellet does not disclose a reducer having ribs. See Kellet at page 6. Dumler does not disclose a reducer.

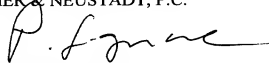
In addition to the above, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest numerous features set forth in the dependent claims, particularly in combination with the features of the claims from which they depend.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 32,829

Michael Britton  
Registration No. 47,260

Philippe J. C. Signore  
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

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